A LETTER

Humbly addreſs'd

To the AUTHOR OF THE Birmingham DIALOGUE

Occaſion'd

By ſome VERSES printed in the *London Magazine* for February 1738

Joſh. 1. 7. -- *Be thou Strong and very courageous* ——

Jude. 3. -- *Earneſtly contend for the Faith once delivered to the Saints,* --

1 Cor. 16. 13. -- *Stand faſt in the Faith, quit you like Men. be Strong.*

(Price Two-pence.)

A

LETTER

To the AUTHOR of the Birmingham DIALOGUE, &c.

REVEREND SIR

I HAVE lately met with one of the London Magazines, in which I found a Copy of *Verſes upon ſome late Diſputants*, Suppoſed to have been written by you; whether the Suppoſition is right or not, I ſhall not dare to determine: Suppoſing you the Auther, yet I ſhall not take upon me to arraign your Genius for Poetry, or to criticize upon the Performance: It ſeems to me little poinant, (however you might intend it) and not likely to give Provocation unto any, and leaſt of all to me. But if I may preſume to uſe Freedom with you, I would ſay thus much of "That the Spirit of *Tom. Brown*, or *Butler's Ghoſt*, are like to be of little Service to you, for the Encreaſe of your Acquaintance with the great Doctrines of the Goſpel; and as you hope to grow in the Knowledge of theſe, as does become your Station, I would adviſe you to invoke

voke the Aid of a Spirit, Superiour to what inſpired the above mention'd Authers; if we may Judge of their Inſpirations by their Productions."

IT is confidently reported you have miſtaken the Perſon who wrote upon your *Title Page*; — You would do well to go upon ſurer Ground the next time you may be taken with a Rhyming Fit; or, (to ſpeak with more Decency) feel your ſelf diſpos'd for poetic Flights, and the Muſes invite you to aſcend Parnaſſus.

IAM glad you let us know you have not forgotten your Oppoſers: But Sir, I would acquaint you, we look for ſomething more to the Purpoſe from you, and indeed expected its Appearance before this time: As it is long in Doing we hope it will be well done. —— Perhaps ſome will expect what is epuivalent to Intereſt for Truſt, in Proportion to the time you are truſted. —— But to be ſerious, Sir, pray don't totally diſappoint us. Be pleas'd to Conſider, HAVE not your Antagoniſts call'd for ſome Reply? Mr. GILL has given you a *Challenge* at the Cloſe of his Anſwer to your Dialogue: —— but leſt that Term before us'd Shou'd affright you, I would rather call it *a fair Invitation* to try the Merits of the Cauſe depending, and to debate the Matter freely. —— Pray *Sir* comply with the Invitation.

DO not your Friends expect it? True, it has been ſaid theſe diſwade you from it; —— but *Sir*, can they be your *real Friends* that would perſwade you to Sit down under ſo much

much Contradiction? I can't but conclude, either the above Report is groundleſs, or theſe ſuppoſed Friends are falſe, or if real and true, they muſt be convinc'd of ſomething relating to your ſelf, and your Cauſe, which I will not at preſent declare. —— But again Sir,

DOES not your Reputation require it? This is a tender Point, and you can't be altogether unconcern'd in relation here to. Does it become a *Champion* (and the Aggreſſor alſo) to give out upon the very firſt Attack? What can the Public think of a Perſon of your Learning and Reading, your Figure and Fame, Your Character, Capacity, and Parts, ſhou'd you remain Silent in your preſent Situation.

ARE not the Matters in debate of Sufficient Weight and Importance to deſerve a particular Conſideration and Diſcuſſion? I think *Sir*, they are moſt of them very momenteous; and if you think Otherwiſe, I believe in that you are ſomwhat Singular.

SHOU'D not your Regard to what you account *Truth* put you upon this Undertaking? I am willing to believe you are ſincere, and do really take that for Truth which you ſeem to contend for: But *Sir*, if you have the Truth on your Side, Mr. GILL has ſhamefully Oppos'd and Contradicted it: And can you bare to have Truth run down, and not attempt its Vindication? How can you anſwer for this either

either to God, or your own Conſcience? While Mr. G ll's Anſwer to your Dialogue is read in all Parts of the Kingdom, can you content your ſelf with preaching down, and replying to it only in your Pulpit, and to your own Audience? A little *Hudibraſſic Verſe* will by the Judicious be eſteem'd a very inſufficient *public Defence*; and perhaps ſome of the facetious Wags of the Age will ſay, *You have turn'd a religeous Conteſt into a Song.* ——— If your Opponents are in any Error, they will eſteem it a Favour to be ſet right; therefore by all means find them out and lay them open, and give not the Public Occaſion to conclude, "The poor Baptiſts can ſay more for Error, than you can anſwer in behalf of Truth it ſelf.

IS not your Bookſeller willing to print and publiſh any more for you? I would hope for his ſake your laſt is not ſuch a Drug and Deadweight upon him as to diſcourage any farther Proceeding of that ſort. I do aſſure you *Sir*, I contributed my Mite towards the Relief, by purchaſing one of your Pamphlets; and do here promiſe for farther Encouragement, (if I live) I will purchaſe your next Performance in whatever Shape it may appear, whether it be the IId. *Part* of the Dialogue, or a Defence of the *Former*.

BUT leſt I tire you with many Queſtions, I will add no more at preſent. ——— I was willing in this Way to let you know I have

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ſeen the *Verſes* above mention'd, but muſt own the London Magazine lies pretty much out of my Way: Had you got them inſerted in the Northampton Mercury, the daily Gazetteer, or the Gentleman's Magazine, I ſhou'd ſooner have had a ſight of them, and you might ſooner have heard from me; —— but *Sir*, You'll pleaſe to forgive this late Trouble.

I KNOW it is a conſiderable Mortification to a great Genius to have any of its Productions neglected and no Notice taken of them, and was not willing this Shou'd fall upon you; and if you will Oblige the Public with ſome farther Performances, 'tho' they ſhou'd happen to be worthy of Notice but in a very *low Degree*, I dare almoſt promiſe you they ſhall not paſs without it; for indeed it is pity that any thing from your remarkable Pen ſhou'd be wholly ſlighted, and no Attention given there-unto. —— The preſent in general is an ungrateful Generation; but yet *Sir*, under the above Aſſurances of ſome Regard, as *you have began* it is hop'd you will go on, and not quit the Field ſo ſoon as you have call'd forth your Adverſary.

SURELY

SURELY I may now expect weekly to hear of freſh Advertiſements put up at the Places of public Worſhip & and 'till then, wait with ſome Degree of Impatience. —— You'll pleaſe to haſten *on* and *out* your next with all convenient Speed, and there-by Oblige among Others ——

—— Sir

Your certain Reader

and humble Servant.